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# PelhamNEWS

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## inside

### \$14.5M CAPITAL BUDGET PASSES

Town council passed a \$14.5 million capital budget Monday that will change Pelham above and below ground.

"This will be the beginning of what will be a major transformation for the town," said treasurer Carl Pupo about the capital infrastructure work.

See story page 3.

## See Inside:

**PUPPO'S**  
**INSERTS**  
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## CHRISTMAS IN PELHAM

# Boughs, bows and biz

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

Christmas in Pelham, the town's seasonal celebration promotion, has steadily grown over its four years.

Co-ordinator Gayle Baltjes-Chataway said it has swelled to involve more than 45 shops, stores, boutiques, restaurants, professionals, banks, greenhouses and golf courses.

Five crews of about a dozen people decorated about 300 utility poles in Fonthill, Ridgville and Fenwick last week to start the event.

"It's our way of reminding people 'tis the season," said Baltjes-Chataway about the often climatic adventure of putting evergreen branches and bows on posts in late November.

Christmas in Pelham continues with a two-day Pelham Business Association open house today and tomorrow. Business open houses are tied to entertainment stores, restaurants and



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

David Swan, left, and Paul Ryan are one of five crews of about a dozen people who decorated utility poles in Pelham last week. The task marks the start of the Christmas in Pelham season. Crews tied bows and evergreen branches to about 300 poles in Fonthill, Ridgville and Fenwick.

at the Fonthill bandshell.

A week from today, St. Alexander School choir performs at Shoppers Drug Mart at Fonthill Shopping Centre at noon.

The Notre Dame jazz Combo then strikes up at the Urban Steakhouse from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the Treblaies sing at Look-

out Ridge Retirement Community. The Pelham Food Drive runs tomorrow morning from the Fenwick and Fonthill Lions Club halls, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Also on Sunday, from 10 a.m. to noon, the PBA will turn the bandshell into a drop-off point for the food drive. There will be

entertainment at the bandshell by St. Ann school choir at 10:30 a.m., with Santa visiting at 11 a.m.

Horse-drawn hayrides will tour Pelham Peace Park from 11 a.m. to noon.

See PROMOTION | Page 7

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# upfront

■ **COUNCIL:** Council passes snow clearing bylaw

## Shovel sidewalks or pay tax

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

Pelham residents better keep their shovels beside their doors and snow-blowers gassed up.

Town council Monday night adopted a snow-clearing bylaw requiring residents and businesses to clean sidewalks in front of their homes and shops.

Kelly Walsh, director of community and infrastructure services, presented a report covering questions politicians raised at their Nov. 16 town council meeting.

The report dealt with liability, snow plowed onto sidewalks, enforcement, winter absentee owners, communications and people unable to shovel.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said councillors have received numerous e-mails and letters on the issue.

She said she supported carrying on with the bylaw as written and leaving enforcement up to the bylaw enforcement officer.

"There will be subjective interpretations applied and there are bound to be glitches," she said. "After all, it's new."

Walsh said nine of Niagara's 12 lower-tier municipalities have snow-clearing bylaws.

One of the interpretations for the bylaw enforcement officer will be whether snow is piled up on sidewalks by passing plows, which was the topic of some e-mails.

The bylaw requires a public sidewalk to be cleared within 24 hours of significant snowfall. If it isn't, the town will clear it and add the cost to the homeowner's tax bill.

For the first month during January, the town will send staff out after 24 hours to check if sidewalks were cleared. Where they were not, they

will put hang notices on doors telling the resident to clear them within the next 24 hours, Walsh explained in his report.

After Jan. 31, the extra 24 hours' grace will be dropped, he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz asked if other municipalities operated on complaint-only enforcement of their bylaws.

Walsh said some of the nine rely on complaints while others are proactive. For the first year, the town will take a proactive approach.

On the issue of liability, the report said the town as owner of the sidewalk would remain liable, it would not be transferred to the property owner.

"The bylaw is meant to create a more walkable community by providing 'guaranteed' clear sidewalks throughout the town rather than the patchwork of links the town has now in winter," Walsh said in the report.

A side benefit of the bylaw is the reduction of risk to the town through a reduction in probability of pedestrian falls resulting from snow and ice accumulation.

The bylaw will not exempt property owners who go away for the winter. They will have to arrange to have the sidewalks cleared.

For people who cannot shovel, the town will develop a list of addresses that require assistance. Social service agencies such as Pelham Cares and E.L. Crossley Secondary School will be contacted about providing volunteers to assist in snow clearing.

Town chief administrative officer Martin Yamich said students seeking community service hours benefited when a snow-clearing bylaw was brought in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp suggested checking liability concerns students may face.

■ **COUNCIL:** Pelham holiday card designed by students



Staff Photo

The winners of the Town of Pelham 2009 holiday card contest are: front from left Katie McNevin, Arden Schirru holding the card, and Sarah Pastore; in back from left Noah Girotti, Connor Moffatt, Conary Coyne, Chris Istantoulas, Jonathan Coyne, Shane Smythe and Evan Bernier. They pose with Mayor Dave Augustyn who said 60 entries were received. Connor Moffatt was the overall winner and his design will appear on the front of the card. The other winning nine designs are smaller and on the interior of the official greeting card for the town.

Ward 1 Coun. Jim Lane supported the bylaw and suggested looking at it after its first year to see if it needs to be modified.

Ward 2 Coun. Dave Emmons said he still opposed the bylaw because it was unfair to certain citizens.

Cook suggested rather than contracting out cleanup of properties that didn't shovel perhaps staff could do it. It would also include sidewalks along parks or in front of regional owned land.

Walsh said that was possible using equipment that could be used in both winter and summer.

He also provided an estimate of what it would cost for the town to do all sidewalks. It would be \$350,000.

Mayor Dave Augustyn and Ward 3 Coun. John Durley also supported adopting the bylaw as written.

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■ **2010 BUDGET:** Capital works includes Haist and Pelham Sts. repairs, town hall addition



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Elizabeth Dr. is one of the streets now under reconstruction. It's the start of an extensive series of construction that will continue through 2010 with major work on Pelham and Haist Sts. and upgrades throughout the town.

# \$14.5M budget passes

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

Town council passed a \$14.5 million capital budget Monday that will change Pelham above and below ground.

"This will be the beginning of what will be a major transformation for the town," said treasurer Carl Pupo about the capital infrastructure work.

The town is using federal and provincial grants, which are matched from reserve funds, to rebuild Haist St. and Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill including sewer and water services, as well as replace playground equipment in nine parks and put an addition on town hall.

The \$14.5 million to be spent in 2010 will be 32% of \$54.9 million

budgeted for roads, buildings and equipment over the next five years.

Projects after 2010 would include replacement of Pelham Fire Station No. 2 in Fenwick, a new Maple Acre Library in Fenwick and a possible new recreation complex.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the 2010 spending will be covered by grants from upper level governments and from various reserve funds set up for roads, equipment, parks, water services, sewer and buildings.

"This is the game plan for the coming years," he said about the capital budget and its five-year projections.

The transformation spending began in 2009 with the resurfacing and reconstruction of seven

roads, the replacement of four town vehicles and a fire truck as well as an overhaul of outdated information services technology used by the town.

Augustyn said the federal and provincial grants have allowed the town to advance work on Haist St. and Pelham St. into 2010. This in turn will move up work that was scheduled for later.

For example, the town will be able to do an engineering plan for Pelham St. from College St. to Quaker Rd. leading to its reconstruction in 2012 rather than 2014, he said.

"It's an exciting capital budget," he said. "We will have a large construction year in 2010."

The approval of the capital budget on Monday is a day earlier than last year.

Over the past couple of years the town has passed its capital budget early to allow staff to tender sooner. This has brought lower tenders from a hungry construction industry looking for work early in the building season.

"It really works for us because we've got some great pricing over the past couple of years," he said. "It means we levy less later for future projects."

Some of the highlights are: Under administration is \$32,000 for the installation of fibre optic data lines to increase speed of the town's computer systems as well as \$15,000 to customize financial information systems and \$15,000 for a new town website.

Some \$9.4 million has been set aside for roads with the bulk of

\$6.7 million for reconstruction of Haist and Pelham Sts.; \$1.8 million will go for reconstruction jobs on Effingham, Roland, Foss, Hurricane, Chantler, Centre, Effingham, Centre and Station St. while \$64,500 will cover various resurfacing projects. A sidewalk repair program will cost \$75,000.

In addition to playground replacement, the town has put \$332,000 aside for park upgrades and \$320,000 to renovate Old Pelham Town Hall.

For the Fonthill library, \$9,300 will go toward replacement of furnaces and air conditioners.

The town's operation budget, which has the biggest effect on municipal taxes, has yet to be approved.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

# PelhamNEWS

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## perspective



Wayne Campbell  
EDITOR

## A question for the season

During a getaway weekend for Rochester, N.Y., last week I wandered through the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film.

It was fun seeing those old cameras we no longer use, reviewing the history of photography and smiling over the giant projectors and cameras theatre and television crews pushed around.

The tour included the Jewish George Eastman mansion. He's the guy who gave us the Kodak camera and company.

The mansion, decorated for Christmas, hosted a couple of children's birthday parties.

Greeting the children at the foot of a wall staircase was St. Nicholas in a long, narrow white beard.

He wore a pointed bishop's mitre and long robes in red and white. He carried a bishop's crozier or crook.

St. Nicholas blessed the boys and girls, patting them on the head and chatted with them as he posed for photos taken by parents and friends.

I thought the presence of St. Nicholas, rather than Santa Claus, had something to do with mansion's 19th century theme.

St. Nicholas was a third century bishop in what's now Turkey. He became famous for secretly giving small gifts to help the poor. Santa Claus is a recent adaptation of the story.

However, the actor playing St. Nicholas said he really had little to do with the mansion.

# comment

## Next step taken in downtown revitalization

Since I am a perpetual booster of all things Pelham, you will not be surprised that I am excited about the upcoming revitalization of downtown Fonthill.

You see, just last week we took another step closer to a shovel in the ground on the \$2.5-million revitalization of downtown Fonthill from College St., across Regional Rd. 20 to Broad St.

How? The company hired to finalize the detailed engineering design held a public information centre regarding the street reconstruction and streetscaping improvements.

Don't worry in case you missed the information is posted on the front page of town's website at [www.pelham.ca](http://www.pelham.ca) and it is inviting your comments until Dec. 11.

Within the study area and based on significant average daily traffic counts (of approximately 8,000), Pelham's Fonthill, a local arterial road.

In the development of the design options, the consultants considered the need for cyclists,



Dave Augustyn  
MAYORAL VIEW

to maximize the pedestrian realm, to provide on-street parking, and to ensure adequate fire vehicle manoeuvrability.

They suggested a standard 3.5 metre lane width "based on the volume and nature of traffic and the need to meet provincial and local engineering standards for a safe roadway."

After looking at three other options, they recommended "Option 2: On Street Parking (both sides) – No Bike Lanes (except from College St. to Church Hill St.)."

Their reasons? The design, which is also available in detail on the town's website, provides for the same number of on-street parking spots, expands or improves the pedestrian realm, complies with recent planning studies (like the community improvement plan and urban design guidelines), links with the regional bikeway network, and provides additional

boulevards to enhance business frontage.

I was impressed that the picture boards also included a graphic representation of how the revitalization might look. It included an image of the current situation and an image of how that area could look with the preferred design.

It only included a new road and sidewalks, but the images also removed the overhead hydro and telephone poles, added decorative lights and trees, and delineated parking spaces.

The consultant suggested that following streetscaping design review meetings in January/February, the detail design should be completed in "late 2010." The construction could be tendered in the spring and should be completed next fall.

And so, it will be gratifying that the vision that so many have worked on for so many years will become a reality during the next year.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) or read past columns at [www.pelham-mayordave.blogspot.com](http://www.pelham-mayordave.blogspot.com).

## Serving children

As co-chair of the public health and social services committee, I attended many meetings and forums with people for seniors, for the unemployed and disabled and for children. The Early Years Planning Council along with Early Years Niagara: Business Education Council and regional staff recently held a forum to review the 2009 report on how well our children aged six years and under, their families and their communities are being served.



Brian Baty  
REGIONAL VIEW

In 2003 the Niagara Children's Charter was endorsed by Niagara Region and all 12 municipalities.

According to the charter, all children should have:

- Healthy food, safe water, clean air;
- Housing in dwellings that reflect the normal standard of our community;
- Healthy physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, well being and quality of life;
- Protection from physical, psychological and sexual abuse both in and out of the home;
- Time with their families and/or other nurturing and positive role models throughout their childhood;
- High quality early child development opportunities to meet their best interests;
- Resources to achieve the highest attainable level of health and the assurance that the resources are provided to ensure lifelong good health are provided;
- Primary and secondary education to enable them to reach their full potential;
- Recreational and leisure activities in the form of play, creative expression and skill development opportunities;
- Protection from racism and discrimination irrespective of the child's ethnic, cultural, spiritual and/or religious identity.

This means that Niagara is committed to being child-focused, child friendly, family centred and community oriented.

It also means Niagarans understand the importance of the early years and how supporting children's optimal development in the early years will benefit our local communities now and into the future.

The group reviewed the 2009 report to look for changes and trends over the years.

Each of the 10 charter rights listed above connect to indicators for that item.

## United Way goes person to person

ALLAN BENNER  
PelhamNEWS Staff

Payroll deductions from south Niagara businesses made a big difference to past United Way of South Niagara campaigns. But not this year. The lack of those big donations is becoming very apparent as United Way continues to struggle to raise \$1,038,689.

At a time of the year when past campaigns were well on their way towards reaching their goals, United Way executive director Peter Papp said this year's campaign has only just surpassed about 30% – or \$300,000.

"It's really slow. We're going to have to really push the campaign on for the next three months," Papp said.

Campaign chair Paul Leon said they've had to change tactics in the hope of raising enough money to help support area social service agencies.

As a result of recent plant closures like John Deere and layoffs in other industries, Leon said campaign team members are being asked "to approach individuals in their communities to see if we can make up the shortfall from individual donations."

"We're doing it on almost a person-to-person basis," he said.

It's a far more labour intensive approach to raising funds than the local United Way had

to do before. And it's been hard on the campaign team members, Leon said.

"This is a whole new approach for them. It's said also means a significant commitment of time from the members."

"When some of them said they would help it, they didn't realize how onerous it would be," he said.

But they also understand how vital the work they're doing is.

"Our underlying social issue is poverty, then you add the unemployed and their challenges, and we have a serious social issue here in south Niagara," Leon said.

He said it's an issue that is not being overlooked, thanks to recent studies done by Niagara Region.

"When you read that one-in-three people at food banks are children, when you talk to the schools and you find out that children are coming to school without eating, when you talk to Port Canes and you find out how many thousands of meals they've served... when you see the impact it's having on the lives, when you hear (Niagara community services commissioner) Brian Hutchings talk about how dire circumstances are, then we know that we need to respond."

Many of the individuals they've approached have stepped up to the plate to make a difference in their community, Papp said.



## ■ PERSPECTIVE

## A refreshing restatement

FROM PAGE 4

He said he did it primarily for events at the local Catholic cathedral with a few side appearances such as this one at the Eastman home.

He does it to deliver the message of St. Nicholas.

"I don't ask the children what they want for Christmas," he said setting himself apart from a Santa Claus role.

"I ask the children what they will give others." That message of service is what St. Nicholas preached," he explained.

It was a refreshing restatement of the Christmas message.

We have the Citizens of Pelham Food Drive tomorrow while schools, churches and clubs are adopting families. It's a good question to ask.

By the way, St. Nicholas' feast day is Dec. 6.

## ■ BATY

## Report is compelling

FROM PAGE 4

The data includes breastfeeding rates, usage of food banks, the price of eating well in Niagara, immunization rates, smoking rates, obesity rates, test results on the Early Development Instrument, sports and recreation participation and so on.

Tables show how well neighbourhoods and communities are doing over time and there are separate sections of the report for all communities. The report is compelling. It provides a focus for the deployment of scarce resources where there is need and a cause for celebration where there is improvement over time.

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■ 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS?: Big procession next weekend

# Fenwick parade set for Santa Claus

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

First, we had the Chinese good luck day of 9-9-9 on Sept. 9, 2009.

Then the sadness of 11-11-11, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month on Remembrance Day.

Now we have 12-12-12 — the 12th annual Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Parade marshal Fred Disher said the parade is coming together well with three bands signed up and other units coming in.

"We'll take registrations right up to parade day," he said.

The bands include E.L. Crossley Marching Band, P.K. Hummingbird Steel Band, and the Dragon Ritual Drummers.

"The last one is a new one and they seem to be excited about coming," Disher said.

The parade will also include the Robert Land Academy which usually includes drummers, he said.

"And we expect to have a number of fire trucks. They seem to enjoy the

The parade is scheduled for 1 p.m. with units starting to gather at Bethany Christian Reformed Church at 1086 Balfour St. at 11:30 a.m.

Fisher said the parade will include collection of letters to Santa.

The parade will roll down Balfour to Canboro Rd. and on through downtown Fenwick to Church St. and Centennial Park.

In the park will be an afternoon of food, bay rides, face painting, hot chocolate and visiting time with Santa sponsored by the Fenwick Lions Club.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

## ■ PROMOTION

# Carollers, choirs add spirit

FROM PAGE 1

Carollers plan to stroll through Ridgeville and Fenwick from noon to 2 p.m.

Glynn A. Green choir will sing at Keith's Restaurant at noon. Rachel and Andrew Folk Acoustic Duo will play at Cafe on Main at 1 p.m. and Solstice will be at the Log Cabin from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Choir will sing in Fenwick and Ridgeville and the Notre Dame Jazz Combo performs at Shoppers Drug Mart also from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wrapping up tomorrow's lineup is a concert by the Trebelaires at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

"Absolutely it's grown," said Baltjes-Chataway about the open house program.

"We see more people coming to visit Santa Claus, the horse drawn hayride is busier."

Similarly more people are visiting local shops.

"Anything we can do to get people into the stores, shops and restaurants in Fenhill, Fenwick and Ridgeville it's good," she said.

Part of the Christmas in Pelham promotion is a passport. Shoppers are encouraged to visit at least 25 businesses by Dec. 16, have their passport marked and enter it into a draw.

The winner will be selected Monday, Dec. 21, during a celebration of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Runners will carry the torch through Fenhill between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. that day.

The PBA will sponsor entertainment at the bandshell and highlight it with the passport draw for \$1,000, said Baltjes-Chataway.

Christmas in Pelham has proven a good promotion, she said.

"It's a chance to look behind those brightly decorated windows," she said. "You may be surprised with what you find."

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

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7 pm - 8 pm Treblaires performing at Lookout Ridge Retirement Community

## Saturday, December 5th

10 am - 12 pm Drop off Pelham Food Drive Donations at the Bandshell  
10 am - 1 pm A Cappella Niagara Carolers performing throughout Fonthill  
10:30 am St. John's School Choir at the Bandshell  
11 am Santa Claus Visit at the Bandshell  
11 am - 12 pm Home-Drawn Hay Rides around Peace Park  
12 pm Olym A. Green School Choir performing at Keith's Restaurant

12 pm - 2 pm

1 pm - 2 pm

2 pm - 4 pm

2 pm - 4 pm

7:30 pm

Carolers throughout Ridgville and Fenwick  
Rachel and Andrew Palk Acoustic Duo performing at Café on Main  
Solstice performing at Log Cabin  
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Choir in Fonthill & Ridgville  
Notre Dame Jazz Combo performing at Shoppers Drug Mart  
Treblaires performing at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Tickets available from church office: 892-6011)

## Saturday, December 5th

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## Monday, December 21th

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# FENWICK LIONS: In the spirit of giving



Supplied photos

Above: Lion Bruce Bissell, left, chair of Biketoberfest, and Lion Harry Cummings present a cheque for \$7,000 to Heather Scott of the Welland Hospital Foundation.

Top right: Lion Bruce Bissell, left, chair of Biketoberfest, and Harry Cummings, right, present a cheque for \$10,000 to governor John Buchner for a special needs guide dog.

Bottom right: Lion Bruce Bissell, left, chair of Biketoberfest, and Lion Harry Cummings present a cheque for \$7,000 to Lion Sherry Welsh for Lions Camp Dorset.



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■ ENVIRONMENT: Solar-powered ideas seek funds

## Crossley eyeing green for green projects

TIFFANY MAYER  
Sun Media

A new cafeteria at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School could be a bastion of greenness by the time it's built.

Meanwhile, L.L. Crossley is prepared to go solar.

District School Board of Niagara hopes the Ministry of Education sees the potential of the plan in addition to the St. Catharines high school's cramped lunch room and gives the board some cash to equip it with renewable energy technology.

Think solar water-heating, solar heating and solar power.

The plan to green Churchill's cafeteria was among eight proposals the board submitted to the ministry recently, which, through the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, has set aside \$50 million to install renewable energy in Ontario schools.

"With only \$50 million for the whole province, we wouldn't expect to get all of them, or most of them, but we hope to get some of them," trustee and finance committee chair Dalton Clark said.

The proposals were discussed at a board meeting

on Nov. 24.

Clark said it's easier — and cheaper — to install the green-energy elements on new structures, such as Churchill's cafeteria addition, than to retrofit buildings.

The Churchill project comes with an estimated price tag of \$870,000. The less elaborate proposal to install only solar power at Crossley would cost about \$1.86 million.

Proposed sites were chosen based on the whether roof space and optimal wind energy generation was available.

Anna Harrison, principal at L.L. Crossley, which offers a specialist high skills major program in energy conservation, said green-energy infrastructure would be incorporated into the science curriculum, no matter what school's bid wins out.

Powering schools with green energy — the excess would be sold into the grid — also fits with schools' pledges to become certified Ontario Eco-Schools, a distinction earned for the number and type of green endeavours at a school, she said.

The province will announce approved projects early in 2010.

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## ■ CONSERVATION: Twelve Mile Creek habitat

## Eel ladder suggested at plant

MATTHEW VAN DONGEN,  
SUN MEDIA

This eel isn't electric, but it is sparking changes to a planned hydropower dam on Twelve Mile Creek.

You may have never seen an American eel in Twelve Mile Creek — the siluriform creature is rare and was recently added to the provincial endangered species list.

Frank Perri, general manager of hydro dam proponent St. Catharines Hydro Generation, has never eyeballed an eel either.

But experts say the creek is both home and highway to the elusive eels, so the planned four-megawatt green power facility will likely boast a million-dollar bypass.

"I call it an eel-fish passageway," said Perri, who described it as a series of stepped "resting pools" to help creek denizens move upstream around the \$38-million dam — or downstream without being sucked into hungry turbines.

Perri said he expects the project "to be closely watched" for its response to the new provincial direction to protect the endangered eel.

The pricey channel is not exclusively reserved for eels, however.

The bypass will also help spawning fish and prevent many aquatic movers-and-shakers from ending up as gull food under the dam.

But as part of the project, Perri said various government ministries are also suggesting the addition of a specific "eel ladder" at the existing Heywood power plant in Port Dalhousie.

Believe it or not, determined eels already climb the almost four-metre high city weir in Port Dalhousie just to get into Twelve Mile Creek, said Kent Cornisse, a planning supervisor with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

He said ministry sampling over 25 years has "consistently found eels" in the creek from Martindale Pond to the headwaters near Short Hills Provincial Park.

Not in bunches, of course. Creek searchers are lucky to find a couple of the quick, often-small creatures in any given year, although one caught last year measured close to a metre in length.

That's kind of the point, Cornisse noted.

"The American eel is endangered, which means the population is declining in Ontario," he said. "We need to maintain their access to their habitat and if possible improve that access."

Perri said no plans for fish or eel protection are finalized yet. St. Catharines Hydro Generation hopes to submit a final environmental screening report for the hydro project early next year.

Cornisse said eel ladders are just one way the province is trying to help the population climb. But if the means seem too expensive, consider the eel is a top predator that likes to chow down on invasive species such as the goby.

## ■ SERVICE OF HOPE: Wednesday, Dec. 9



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Holy Trinity Church in Fonthill is hosting a Service of Hope for bereaved people during the holidays on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The service is sponsored by the Pelham Clergy Fellowship, Lampman Funeral Service and James L. Pedlar Funeral Home. Pictured from front left is Terry Mikolasek, of Lampman, Rev. Russ Myers, of Fonthill Baptist Church, Debbie Mikolasek, of Lampman, Tina Moessner, of Pedlar Funeral Home, back, Rev. Calvin Lewis, of Kirk-on-the-Hill Presbyterian Church, Canon David Browning, of Holy Trinity Church Fonthill, Rev. David Keith, of Pelham Evangelical Friends Church, and Rev. Alan McLean, of Fenwick United Church. Everyone is welcome but those able to confirm their attendance are asked to call 905-892-4701 or 905-892-5762.

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It happens fast. Candida can spread over in just 30 minutes! Since Candida actually permeates the acrylic liner of the denture, chronic infection can occur. The common result is denture stomatitis, that is red inflamed sores under the denture. Stomatitis will discourage from wearing the denture at all.

How to resist infection? Keep your mouth tissues in top condition. Remove your dentures more often, especially at night. Let's try to determine what elements of your diet might contribute to fungus growth. Best of all, have us evaluate your denture fit. In severe or chronic cases you may need to see your doctor.

Of course, life with a denture can be full and vigorous. But remember, your oral health will always need attention, denture or no denture.

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## LIBRARY EVENT

# War correspondent talks about covering Afghanistan story

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS/staff

PELHAM — War correspondent Murray Brewster walks the streets of Kandahar in Afghan clothes but he knows he stands out.

"It's hardly a disguise. Clearly I look like I'm not from there, not only am I white but I'm wearing the wrong hat. In Kandahar, they wear turbans," he said in an telephone interview Monday. "The kids in the street laugh at me."

Brewster, who is from Welland and attended Centennial Secondary School, will talk about his life as a Canadian Press foreign correspondent at the Pelham Public Library 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11.

The 46-year-old has spent eight months, spread over three years, "embedded" with Canadian troops in their Kandahar base. They included going on patrols and missions.

He has also spent time "disembedded" working on stories about the people and politics of Afghanistan and Kandahar. Brewster said he works with the help of Afghan journalists who serve as translators.

Recently as a Canadian Press reporter in Ottawa he is covering the controversy over Afghan troops turning over Taliban prisoners to Canadian officials.

Brewster said a lot of information needs to come out about what happened and when it happened.

"It's an important story," he said. A recent poll said 70% of Canadians didn't think it was right to hand over prisoners for potential torture.

During his time in Afghanistan, he has seen a change in the attitude of Afghans toward Canadian troops.

At first they were grateful the Canadians were there. They were terrified of the Taliban.

Then they became concerned about the number of Afghan civilians accidentally killed by Canadian troops.

"Please stop shooting our civilians," he said and told and reminded of a local saying that if you hurt one person you make 10 enemies.

Early 2008 was the best time in the area. The economy was picking up. Teams played soccer in the stadium. More than 200 people would turn out to watch billiard players compete at a pool hall, said Brewster explaining one of the odd brighter moments.

"That all changed in June 2008," he said when a major jail break freed dozens of prisoners. A period of heavy fighting followed.

Now there is an ebb and a flow in feelings.

"They don't blame the Canadians," he said. "But when you talk to people they just want to get this thing over with. They're getting sick and tired of us."

For Canadians, Brewster said he thinks the Afghan experience will be a defining moment.

"We are undergoing an evolution in how we view ourselves," he said. "I think we will have a more sophisticated view of the world."

No longer will we consider ourselves international boy scouts but rather understand how international affairs work.

In addition to the Afghanistan story, Brewster covered the 9-11 terrorist attack on New York, hurricane Katrina and other international stories.

Afghanistan: Through the Lens of a War Correspondent Murray Brewster at the Fonthill branch, will consist of a short outline with a PowerPoint presentation of what his does and then he'll let the conversation flow, he said.

Fee for the Friday, Dec. 11 evening is \$5 and the library suggests registering ahead of time. Phone number is 905-892-6443.

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Supplied photo  
Five for 5 launch event with  
Tom Cochran and World  
Vision president, Dave  
Toycen at the YMCA of  
Greater Toronto last week.

## ■ WORLD VISION

# Going Five for 5

PelhamNews Staff

World Vision is calling on 385 Pelham residents who have supported it in the past to join its Five for 5 drive.

The Christian relief, development and advocacy organization is stepping up pressure on Canadian leaders to address child deaths and poverty

around the world in advance of the G8 Summit in Muskoka in June.

Last week in Toronto it launched the campaign by staging a "Third World style media event" and using the celebrity strength of Canadian singer-song writer Tom Cochran to urge Canadians to take five minutes of their time to do five simple things that will help save children's lives.

The five things – know, act, join, share and support – is intended to push the government to take real action to do what Canadians want and reduce the unacceptable levels of child deaths around the world, World Vision says.

It released an Ipsos-Reid poll that shows 85% want Canada to be known as a global leader in finding solutions to poverty and protecting the world's children.

Jessica Parker, senior communications officer for World Vision Canada, said 24,000 children under the age of five die daily from preventable diseases.

These include birth complications, pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition.

"This is outrageous," she said.

"We are urging governments to keep their commitment to reduce the number of child deaths by two-thirds by 2015," she said. "That's five years away."

The St. Catharines native said 10,000 people in the Niagara Region have supported World Vision through donations or child sponsorship.

It is now urging them to e-mail their members of Parliament and insist the Canadian government on summit hosts push for the commitment, she said.

World Vision is concerned the G8 countries will back away from the goal because of the economic downturn, she said.

The poll shows 87% say that despite the economic downturn, because Canada and other G8 should keep this commitment.

Parker said World Vision has a good relationship with the Canadian government and has worked with it through its programs.

However, she said it also acts an advocate for those who otherwise don't have a voice.

Parker, who grew up in the north end of St. Catharines, became involved with World Vision through her mother. They sponsored a child in Mali whose education they assisted.

Today Parker sponsors a young girl in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through her job she visited her and said it was rewarding to see what sponsorship does.

She also said a little aid can go a long way when you work with communities in these countries.

## SANTA'S MAILBOX



**Hey Boys and Girls** it's time to write your letter to Santa and get your Parent/Guardian to help you address it to:

Santa Claus (The North Pole) c/o The Tribune,  
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(Letters will be typeset as submitted).

When you send your letter to Santa in care of The Tribune not only will Santa learn your Christmas wishes but so will the readers of The Tribune including Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunts and Uncles.

**AS A SPECIAL BONUS:** All letters received with the attached ballot will be divided into girls' and boys' letters and will be placed in categories based upon age (3-5, 6-8, & 9-11 years). From these ballots, 6 winning names will be drawn on December 18th and announced on December 21st, the lucky 3 girls and 3 boys will each receive...

...A Christmas gift pick of presents (approx... value \$50.00)

### Entry Rules:

1. Letters may be no longer than **50 WORDS** and must include the child's full name, address and phone number.
2. All letters must include a **completed ballot**. No copies or facsimiles will be accepted, and all ballots must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Proof of Identification is required upon claiming prizes. Prizes must be accepted as awarded (no cash substitutions). Employees of the Tribune and their immediate families are NOT eligible to win.
4. All entries received become the property of The Tribune. The Tribune reserves the right to reject, publish, edit or reduce said entries as needed.
5. Entrants also agree to the publication of their names. Entrants may enter as often as they wish; however, additional letters may not appear in "Letters To Santa".

## THE TRIBUNE

## LETTERS TO SANTA ENTRY BALLOT

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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**ENTRY DEADLINES: DEC. 7 FOR DEC. 11 PUBLICATION ~  
DEC. 14 FOR DEC. 18 PUBLICATION**



## ■ RECIPE

# Old-fashioned pancakes with honey-maple butter



Ruth Nixon

WHISKING WITH RUTH

Pancakes are one of my favourite things and this is a wonderful classic pancake recipe to keep in the recipe box for years to come. If you don't want to buy a whole container of buttermilk remember this simple trick: Add one tbsp of lemon juice or white vinegar per one cup of milk and wait 5 minutes. That is all there is to it!

## PANCAKES

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp white sugar
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk milk
- 1 egg
- 3 tbsp butter, melted

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg, butter-milk and melted butter.

Make a well in the center and pour in the liquid ingredients; mix until just combined. Do not overmix as this will toughen the pancakes. Lumps are OK.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake.

Cook on one side until small bubbles appear over the whole pancake and the edges start to look slightly cooked. Flip and cook for about 45 seconds.

Keep warm on plate in very low oven (150 degrees) tented lightly in tin foil.

## HONEY-MAPLE BUTTER

1 cup butter, softened

1/4 cup pure maple syrup (no fake stuff please!)

2 tablespoons honey

1/8 tsp cinnamon

1 piece wax paper

In a mixing bowl, using a spatula mash the butter with the maple syrup, honey and cinnamon until well blended.

Place in a rough log shape on wax paper. Roll into a tube and twist the ends.

Chill in the refrigerator for approximately 30 minutes.

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See the Full Map on Page 10



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■ **P&G GENERATORS AND ENERGY SYSTEMS:** Fonthill company heating homes from deep underground

## Tapping warmth below

RAY SPITERI  
Sun Media

As Liliana Procopio watched a drilling rig bore four 54-metre-deep holes in her front yard, she kept reassuring herself it'll all be worth it in the end.

The nervousness she felt seeing her property turned into a temporary construction site is nothing compared to the relief she figures she will feel by saving \$300 to \$450 every month during the winter in heating costs.

"It's a lot of savings, you know, for heating and everything," said Procopio. "In the winter time, I go \$300, \$400, \$450 (a month). It will be nice to not be paying that much now."

The Parkside Rd. woman is having a geothermal system installed at her house. It uses the earth's relatively constant temperature to provide heating, cooling and hot water for buildings.

The process works by building underground tubing near the structure to extract heat from the soil. This is accomplished using water circulated through pipes buried beneath the earth's surface. It soaks up the temperature of its surroundings and transmits it



Giuliana Procopio, owner of P&G Generators & Energy Systems, stands on the site of an underground geothermal heating system installation in Niagara Falls.

to the surface. Heat is extracted from the water, which is sent back down into the ground. This loop process is continuous.

During the winter, the fluid collects heat from the earth and carries it through the system and into the building. During the summer, the system reverses itself to cool the building by pulling heat from the building, carrying it through the system and placing it in the ground.

The ground-source heat pump in the building connects to the underground tubing. Operating on the same principle as household refrigerators or air conditioners, it transfers the liquid through a heat exchanger and extracts heat or repels it for cooling.

"This is all designed to create free hot water in the summer and deliver substantial hot water savings in the winter."

Procopio learned about natural renewable geothermal energy through her

daughter, Giuliana Procopio, who owns P&G Generators & Energy Systems Inc., a Fonthill-based company that deals with service and installation of geothermal systems and generators.

While initial costs are high due to the installation of the system, they can be recouped over time through savings in utility bills, said Giuliana.

In Liliana's case, installation cost about \$30,000, but she's eligible for a \$10,000 rebate from the federal and provincial governments.

The cost of installing a geothermal system depends on several factors, such as property location and the method of drilling.

"Even if it's \$20,000, even if you find the payback is in eight years, you own the system," said Giuliana. "You'll never have to worry about paying the (utility) bill."

She said one of the more important environmental benefits of geothermal

home heating is there is no burning of fossil fuels or other non-renewable fuels, other than the electricity needed to run the heat pump.

Geothermal home heating is a relatively new process, but it's growing in popularity, said Giuliana.

"Just last year, we hit 10 (installations). And this year we're at 20," she said. "I'm booked right until January."

Giuliana said the company has been around for three years. She has certification through the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition, an accredited industry organization.

"We have our watchdogs. Anytime we install these systems they have to pretty much say OK, you did it right, off you go," she said. "That's what helps customers get that \$10,000 rebate."

"Your last customer is your best salesperson because if you did a great job, they'll call you and you'll do the next."

■ **REVITALIZATION:** Streetscape improvements

## Public given glimpse of Pelham St.'s future

MARK TAYT  
PelhamNEWS Staff

The public got its first glimpse last Tuesday of conceptual designs for Pelham downtown streetscape improvements due to begin next May.

While there was some academic debate on limiting truck traffic along Pelham St., everyone can agree the \$1.8-million project is long overdue.

Gary Acuri, chair of the Pelham Downtown Beautification Committee, said the goal of the overall design is to create public areas and encourage pedestrian traffic.

The work in Fonthill is moving forward at this time thanks to a Build Canada grant. The city's portion of funding was secured this week when town council approved Pelham's 2010 capital budget. A similar process will take place in Fenwick in 2010 but funding has yet to be secured.

"It's exciting to see something is going to happen in the near future," Acuri said. "Visually, it is going to look much, much better."

An open house held yesterday afternoon by the AECOM consulting firm offered a conceptual design that included traffic calming measures and wider sidewalks along Pelham St. Trees, benches and other esthetic changes rounded out the design.

Tim Stuart, project man-

ager for AECOM, said a required environmental assessment should be complete by February and detailed design work can then proceed, with construction in the summer.

The committee is also working through its community improvement plan and urban design guidelines.

John Wink, who is involved in the process, said the plan continues to undergo some "tweaking" as the consultation process continues.

"What we are seeing here today is a conceptual design," he said. "It has a long time coming."

He said the project now underway is the first significant work done in the downtown for as long as he can remember.

"This is really going to improve the visuals," he said.

Kelly Walsh, director of community and infrastructure services for the town, said the target area being revitalized is between College and Broad Sts. The design also calls for some changes to Town Square Blvd.

Walsh said there will be some disturbances as a result of the road reconstruction, but every attempt will be made to manage the disruptions.

The hope is to finish by this month.

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■ **CROSS COUNTRY:** A sterling performance – putting an end to a 12-year medal-less streak



Silver medalists Maria Gearing, Jillian Young, Mackenzie Campbell, Kathryn Hrycusko and Alannah MacDonald.

Supplied photo

## Crossley earns OFSSA silver

For PelhamNEWS

The eight E.L. Crossley C Secondary School cross country competitors who qualified for OFSSA on Nov. 7 in Woodbridge ran exceptional.

The junior girls team won silver, competing against 40 Ontario teams, all with five runners each.

Crossley was 12 points behind first place and three points ahead of third.

The lowest score possible with the top four runners is determined the winner.

A Crossley team has not received a medal at OFSSA in the past 12 years. Having a goal of being one of the top five teams, the girls surprised themselves with their performance.

The team runners were: Alannah MacDonald who placed 19th, Kathryn

Hrycusko who placed 41st, Maria Gearing who placed 45th and Jillian Young who placed 11th.

Other runners representing Crossley included Karley Rempel (senior girl, 5-km race), who placed fifth overall, Phil Hering (senior boys, 7-km race) placed 28th overall and Alex Delle Monache (midget boys, 5-km race) placed 27th overall.



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E.L. Crossley's cross-country running team. Back from left: Jillian Young, Kathryn Hrycusko, Maria Gearing, Alannah MacDonald, Karley Rempel and Phil Hering. Front row: Mackenzie Campbell and Alex Delle Monache. Absent from photo: coaches Marty Edwards and Mary-annne Mergl.

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## ■ BASKETBALL: Confederation earns title Cyclone drops championship

PelhamNEWS Staff

South Niagara's smallest high school is now home to the biggest prize in high school basketball in Ontario.

Confederation outlasted top-ranked Rideau from Elgin in eastern Ontario 49-41 to capture the gold medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association senior girls single A championship Saturday in Cornwall.

The gold is believed to be the "first medal of any kind" for a Confederation team competing at an all-Ontario championships in the 41-year history of the

school.

E.L. Crossley, South Niagara's other hope for a medal in senior girls basketball, dropped a 39-26 decision to Downsview in the consolation championship at the double A championships in Belleville.

Shalimar Stechysyn led the Cyclone in scoring with six points.

Before heading to Cornwall, where they were seeded third, the Jaguars defeated Eastdale for the Zone 3 title and won both of their qualifying games at the Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association championships played at Confederation.

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Daria Zmijewsky  
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## ■ hockey/brief

### NOVICE RECORD AT 13-0-2

The Tim Hortons Pelham novice rep hockey team improved their undefeated league record to 13-0-2. In the first of five games in 10 days, Pelham topped a tough Fort Erie squad 6-4. Joey Natale recorded the hat trick, Josh Glen scored twice and Connor Walton sealed the win with a top shelf backhander.

Next in a battle of undefeated heavyweights, Grimsby and Pelham battled to a 5-5 draw.

Campbell Veld had a hot hand scoring twice for Pelham with single goals to Quentin Annunziata, Glen and Walton. Evan MacPherson was a force in net, helping to earn Pelham a point.

Pelham then rolled over Merriton 18-0 and Welland A/E 20-0. Over the

two games Annunziata scored eight times, Glen six, Alex Blanchard five, Natale four, Ethan Mergl three, Max Blanchard three, Alex Repar two, Garrett Jackson two and Veld two. Walton, Lucas Fast and Justine Barnsley added singles. Michael Rossi tallied four assists.

In the finale, Pelham topped Thorold 4-1 in a game featuring two of the top

novice teams in the league.

The first period was an evenly played chess match with Thorold scoring the only goal for a 1-0 lead. Nicholas Violacis made several big saves for Pelham to keep the game close.

In the second period Pelham fore checked hard, pinning Thorold in their end for most of the period. The effort paid off as Max Blanchard's pass off the

end boards was ripped home by Quentin Annunziata, evening the score at 1-1.

In the third period Pelham applied constant pressure and Josh Glen recorded the natural hat trick to seal the game.

Connor Adams came off the injured reserve list, helping to support a strong defensive effort.

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## A black and white close-up portrait of Jennifer Lopez. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Her hair is blonde and styled in a short, layered cut. She is wearing a dark, strapless top. The lighting is soft, highlighting her facial features.

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